

## **Stamford School Readiness Council Meeting**

**Thursday, May 7, 2015**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Ferguson Library, One Library Place**

### ***Council Members Present:***

Karen Feder	Director of Youth Services, Abilis
Helma Gregorich	Program Manager for Nurturing Families Network
Sheila Glenn	After School Network, ROSCCO
Tamu Lucero	Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Stamford Public Schools
Polly Morrow	Program Manager, Corporate Citizenship and Philanthropy
Erica Phillips	Director, All Our Kin
Caroline Ward	Youth Services Coordinator, The Ferguson Library
Karen Wenz	Director, First Presbyterian Nursery School

### ***Grant Recipients/Advisors/Guests:***

Donna Arcuri	School Readiness Liaison
Karen Brennan	Director, Stamford Early Childhood Collaborative
Martha Hudson	Care Coordinator, Child First
Kerry McMahon	Fairfield County Regional Programs Coordinator, Reach out and Read
Pat Malloy	Instructional Coordinator, Stamford Public Schools
Jill Tomas	Instructional Coordinator, Stamford Public Schools
Nathalie Tocci	Care to Care Coordinator, Family Centers
Anna Witkowski	CLC Director of Child Day Care Programs

## **I. Welcome & Introductions**

Polly O'Brien Morrow welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. She thanked Caroline Ward and The Ferguson Library for hosting the meeting and then invited the group to introduce themselves.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from April 2015**

The Council unanimously approved the minutes from the April 2015 meeting.

## **III. School Readiness Provider Reports**

Provider reports were sent in advance of the meeting and are included here as Attachments A, B, and C. There were no comments or questions on the reports during the meeting.

## **IV. School Readiness Liaison Update, Donna Arcuri**

Donna Arcuri reported that the School Readiness trip to the Palace Theater on Friday, April 24 was a huge success. Despite a few problems with the dismissal (the Stamford Police would not let buses come to the building in a timely manner), the children and teachers all enjoyed the show. We were able to take over 1000 children, including all of the Childcare Learning Center, St. Clement Preschool, and

APPLES children. Many private providers and home day care programs also joined us. Our thanks to all Council members who volunteered to help with logistics that day.

## **V. Stamford Early Childhood Collaborative Update, Karen Brennan**

Karen Brennan summarized work from April including:

- A very successful Week of the Young Child kick off event at Government Center with the Mayor, Superintendent, Collaborative members and children from CLC. The week included programming around town such as the CLC parades and story hour at the Ferguson Library.
- We held the first of two professional development workshops on April 28 on the Early Learning Development Standards. Julie Coakley ran an amazing hands-on art workshop for 25 preschool teachers. We're pleased that teachers shared a gain in knowledge from the beginning of the workshop to the end. Doing our second workshop on Monday May 11<sup>th</sup> on Science. A special thank you to Trish Behm for volunteering her time and helping us with both workshops.
- The SECC is gearing up for its Play and Learn Nights in May. Due to low attendance, the May 7 night was cancelled. All those who signed up were registered for either May 14 or May 21.
- A sign up for STEMfest volunteers was passed around. The SECC will again host a table with its preschool science ramps and tunnels activity. Members are encouraged to come out and bring program materials.
- The SECC is continuing to keep abreast of legislative issues as they relate to community plan funding and worthy wages for teachers, among other bills. Karen thanked all those who have been making calls, writing testimony, or sending e-mails. She especially thanked all those that participated in the Advocacy Day in Hartford. The Advocacy Day team included many of the staff from CLC, teachers from the Stamford Museum and Nature Center Preschool, Jennifer Lapine and others. We must continue to keep the pressure on in the months ahead to support our early childhood work.

## **VI. Quality Enhancement Application Review and Vote**

The Quality Enhancement Review Committee met in April to review two applications, one from Care to Care/Family Centers for health consultation and a health educator and one from All Our Kin for a Read, Count, Grow! Program that would provide coaching of home care providers on early literacy.

The Review Committee members included: Karen Cammarota, Grants Officer – City of Stamford, Department, Erik Larson with the City of Stamford's Community Development Office, Chris Ramaglou from ROSCCO, and Karen Feder from Abilis.

The Review Committee recommended funding splitting the grant and awarding Care to Care \$57,610 and All Our Kin \$7,725. Karen Wenz asked if the slight reduction for Care to Care would impact level of service that Care to Care provides. Donna responded that while it is hard to say since we don't have their new budget, Dennis Torres of Family Centers was told about the recommendation and didn't discuss any potential reductions.

The Council unanimously passed the Review Committee's recommendation.

## **VII. School Readiness RFP Application Review and Vote**

Donna began by thanking the Review Committee members. Despite this being a non-competitive year, reviewing the RFPs is a huge amount of work. Review Committee members included: Trisha Behm from Stamford Public Schools, Karen Cammarota from the City of Stamford's Grant Department, Karen Wenz from First Presbyterian Nursery School, Erica Phillips and Michele Sabia from All Our Kin.

The Review Committee recommended approving the following applications:

CLC William Pitt	255 Full Day and 93 Part Day slots (decrease in 4)
CLC Maple Avenue	100 Full Day (increase of 3) and 60 Extended Day slots
CLC Palmer's Hill	21 Full Day slots (a decrease of 1)
St. Cement Preschool	31 School Day/School Year slots
BOE at Rippowam	15 School Day/School Year slots

Note: CLC reduced their Part Day slots to deal with lower enrollments and increased Full Day in other locations. Also, the new Lockwood Avenue space will not be ready for July 1 due to construction delays so Donna is inquiring what will happen to slots if they cannot open until September.

A brief discussion on QSMs was had – three CLC staff members have applied for extensions and we are awaiting decisions. The Review Committee all agreed that the reasons for the extensions were valid. NAEYC reports were also a part of this year's application. While NAEYC has been a requirement for School Readiness, this year reports and classrooms had to be detailed for the application.

This summer Donna will be working on policy updates, including one made by the Review Committee to require programs to provide quarterly updates to the Council on progress toward meeting the 2020 staffing education requirements. Karen W. stated that if the Council is updated and aware we can problem solve before any problems occur. Donna stated we will discuss in detail at our next meeting.

The Council unanimously passed the Review Committee's recommendation.

Donna reported that she received unanimous email votes from members who were unable to attend today's meeting in favor of the review committee's recommendations.

## **VIII. Announcements**

Caroline Ward shared the Library's Save the Date (June 20) flyer for their Summer Reading Club. She also mentioned that they are partnering with the PTO Council to provide information to parents on summer programs and activities. She also just received a grant to do outreach in the communities around summer reading.

Sheila Glenn announced that this summer ROSCCO will begin moving its program. Tamu Lucero, Assistant Superintendent to Elementary Schools, briefly updated the Council on Stamford Public School summer plans. Due to many buildings needing repair this summer, ROSCCO will be splitting their summer programs between Hart and Rogers. In addition the full day Summer Start program was cancelled due to budget cuts. She encouraged the Council to work together with Community Partners through the budget cuts to help get through this difficult time.

Tamu reported that SPS has developed a calendar for students to follow over the summer in collaboration with community partners.

Karen Feder encouraged all programs to be referring children to Birth to Three earlier. Too many children slip through the system and aren't being evaluated until as late as 32-34 months.

## **IX. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**The next Council meeting will be held on Thursday, June 11  
at 9:30 a.m. in the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Training Room at the Government Center**

## **ADDENDUM A: CLC Monthly Report, April 2015**

### **School Readiness Report Childcare Learning Centers, Inc.**

April 2015

- Program Utilization
  - a. Authorized Capacity – 374 – Full Day; 97 – Part Day; 60- Extended Day= 531
  - b. Slot Utilization – 374-Full Day, 96-Part Day, 60-Extended Day
  - c. Attended – 530
  - d. Ages – 173- 3 year olds, 282 - 4 year olds, 75 - 5 year olds
  - e. Children with disabilities - 21 with LEA- IEP; 2 without LEA-IEP
  - f. Notes and Trends:
- Program Attendance:
  - a. 99%of enrollment
  - b. Notes and trends:
- Staffing
  - Open Positions-
  - a. Cluster A - Teacher
  - b. Cluster E – Assistant Teacher
  - c. Lathon Wider- Head Teacher
  - d. Recruitment – ads on-line, local newspapers, postings at NCC.
- Training:
  - a. CPR/First Aid- April 1
  - b. Yale – Meta-Moment – April 21
- Special Events/Activities:
  - Teachers are preparing lesson plans based on the Preschool Curriculum Standards and the individual needs of the children.
  - Yale videotaped – April 8
  - Bookmobile – April 8
  - Advocacy Day – Carol Sargent, 6 CLC Teachers, Jennifer Lapine an staff from SM&NC went to Hartford, met with 7 Legislators/Legislative Aides
  - Week of the Young Child-
    1. April 13 – Proclamation Day- Cluster C children sang
    2. April 14, 15, 16 – SM&NC –Planting
    3. April 15 – Math Night
    4. April 16 – Stamford Young Artist Philharmonic – Petting Zoo
    5. April 17 – parade at Stamford High School
  - Tours for new prospective parents – April 22
  - Sound Waters- April 21 and 22 – Cluster B

- Palace Theatre – DinoTrain – April 24
- CLC Gala – April 25
- Kindergarten registration – April 28
- Stamford Museum and Nature Center - “Wooly Workshop” – April 28, 29, and 30
- Music and Movement with Fiona Angelov – every Tuesday and Thursday

**ADDENDUM B: St. Clement Preschool Monthly Report, April 2015**

**St. Clement Preschool  
School Readiness Written Report  
April – 2015**

**Program Utilization:**

- School Day – School Year – 42 Students to date
- Pre – K 3 Class – 15
- Pre – K 4 Class #1-14
- Pre – K 4 Class #2-13
- All 31 SR slots taken.
- Newly registered Pre-K 4 child started on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Continuing tours each day for Fall 2015 enrollment
- New enrollment for 2015 – 2016 school year is now up to 30 children.

**Attendance:**

- a. 95% attendance – Children out due to no transportation available.
- b. SCP was closed for the weekend holiday on 4/3 and also for Spring Recess Vacation week of 4/13 – 4/17.

**Staffing:**

- We are fully staffed! 3 Head Teacher's, 3 Teacher Assistant's & one After School Program assistant.
- 99% attendance - Staff out due to personal/family issues.

**Activities & Events:**

- SCP celebrated "April Pool's Day" on 4/1. Each classroom taught the importance of water safety and learning to swim. Each child received handouts for families about water safety and local swimming lessons available for young children.
- SCP held their Parent/Teacher Conferences with families on 4/8. We had approximately 90% of our families attend and the other 10% were able to come in either early in the am or after school. One other staff member did a phone conference with a family that just could not make it into the school.
- SCP held their monthly Staff Meeting on 4/8 in which Donna Arcuri and Karen Cammarota attended.
- SCP celebrated "Spring Fling" on 4/10. Each child planted seeds for a gift for Mother's Day. They made special spring treats and created trees that are now displayed in our front atrium!! It was a fun for all!
- Kindergarten information about upcoming transition and registration events have been sent out to all future elementary school families!
- Summer camp information has also been distributed to each family.
- Diane LaRoche, SCP staff has been named Director of the Stamford Board of Recreation Preschool summer camp. She has been instrumental in helping families register for camp this summer.

**ADDENDUM C: APPLES Monthly Report, April 2015**

Stamford Public Schools  
School Readiness Classroom Report

April 2015

- **Program Utilization**

- a. Authorized Capacity: 15 School Day, School Year slots
- b. Ages: 4 year olds
- c. Students with disabilities: 1 child with special needs

- **Program Attendance:**

- a. Illness: Attendance was consistent this month.
- b. Notes and trends:

- **Staffing:**

- a. Staffing is in place.

- **Training:**

- a. Continuing NAEYC training with standards and partnership with Instructional coordinators
- b. CTEDS- Training with Julie Coakley – **Math Exploration and Standards**

- **Special Events/Activities:**

- a. The Taste of World culminating Feast-100% attendance
- b. Promoting Earth Day- Participating in a variety of school activities!
- c. The Palace Theater field trip to see Dinosaur Live
- d. Ferguson Library Bookmobile continues to visit weekly
- e. Students continue to participate in weekly enrichment activities including Cooking, Bartlett Arboretum, Bricks and Motors, Yoga and Animal Embassy